

DID YOUR WATER BILL JUMP BY MORE THAN 25%?

System checks and mechanical changes may be necessary.

- A toilet leak can waste an average of 1/2 gallon per minute and increase a water bill by more than \$140. Toilet leaks can be silent. Toilet Dye Kits are available from the Water Department. Simply remove the tank lid, remove the dye tablets from the package, and drop the tablets in the tank (not the bowl). Do not flush the toilet. Wait about 1/2 hour to 1 hour and look in the bowl. If the bowl has a blue coloration you need to replace the flapper or install a rebuild kit. Fix all toilet leaks immediately.
- Garden Hose End Sprayer: Will reduce water use by shutting off when not in use.
- 1.5 GPM Low Flow Faucet Aerators: Simply remove the old water aerator, reinstall the new one and reduce water usage by up to 50% from the factor installed aerator. If you are really daring, install a 2 GPM on kitchen faucets, and a 1 GPM on all other faucets.
- Hose Timer: Remove the garden hose and place it on the faucet. This is a great way to have hose end sprinklers shut off at a desired time or you can use it to time your hand watering. It is also a way to eliminate “Oops I forgot to turn off the sprinklers”. Hand watering behavior typically makes it hard for the City Water Conservation experts to pin point the amount of water actually used for outside irrigation. Most people feel they only watered for 15 minutes to 1/2 hour when in fact they usually do not know the exact time they watered and forgot those days they left the water on all day by accident. Typical outside hand watering / rainbird style hose end sprinklers are left on and the person is either distracted by phone call, TV shows or neighborly chats. The Hose Timer virtually eliminates

All the above mentioned items are provided in a FREE “Bucket Buddy” kit when you request a FREE “Residential Water Audit” from the City of Westminster Water Division. If you are interested in a FREE full water system audit to see if there are ways to save you money on future water bills, contact the Jerry Vilander, Water Conservation at (714) 895-2876 ext. 6210.

Others sources of a water bill jumping could be an improperly programmed or faulty sprinkler timer.

Lawn Irrigation 101

Lawn irrigation is typically the highest water use at a residence. If your water bill jumped during the summer months or after you made adjustments to the sprinkler timer, that may be a reason for the higher water bill. Over-watering is actually harmful to the lawn and the environment.

When should I water?

Between 4 AM and 7 AM is recommended. Watering in the early morning is the most effective time. Less water evaporates, wind in Westminster is minimal, and fewer disease problems will occur.

How often and how long should I water?

Water lawns once every three or four days and read your sprinkler timer manual. Interval timing is the best way to water. Do not have it come on for 10 minutes in one interval because the water would likely runoff to the side walk or gutter. For example, have the water come on Monday and Thursday for 3 minutes each station. Then have it come on again for 3 minutes after the last station is completed. Lawns do not need to be watered every day unless it just been seeded or sod laid. Third-day watering promotes deeper root growth which makes your lawn more water efficient and healthier. Below is a recommendation, minutes may vary slightly according to soil type.

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Warm Season grasses actively grow from mid- April (when the soil temperature warms up) to mid-October, and go dormant in the winter. Spreading warm season grasses include Bermuda and St. Augustine

Cool Season grasses grow best during the cooler parts of the spring and fall. They may or may not go dormant during the winter cold. Generally cool season grasses are bunch grasses, meaning that they do not spread by runners. They include perennial ryegrass, annual ryegrass and tall fescue.

When should I water?

Between 4 AM and 7 AM is recommended. Watering in the early morning is the most effective time. Less water evaporates, wind in Westminster is minimal, and fewer disease problems will occur.

How often and how long should I water in summer? Example:

Water lawns once every three or four days and read your sprinkler timer manual. Interval timing is the best way to water. It is recommended that you do not have it come on for 10 minutes in one interval because the water would likely runoff to the side walk or gutter. For example, have the water come on at 5 AM Monday and Thursday for 3 minutes each station. Then have it come on again for 3 minutes after the last station is completed. Lawns do not need to be watered every day unless it just been seeded or sod. Third-day watering promotes deeper root growth which makes your lawn more water efficient and healthier. Below is a recommendation, minutes may vary slightly according to soil type.

Spring/Summer recommended watering schedule.

GRASS	DAYS	MINUTES	INTERVAL
Bermuda	Mon & Thurs	4	Twice
St. Aug	Mon & Thurs	4	Twice
Tall Fescue	Every third day	3	Twice
Marathon	Every third day	3	Twice

All lawns, specifically Bermuda and St. Augustine, slow down considerably in water needs during the winter months as

mentioned above.

Fall/Winter recommended watering schedule.

GRASS	DAYS	MINUTES	INTERVAL
Bermuda	MONDAY	4	Once
St. Aug	MONDAY	4	Once
Tall Fescue	Mon & Thurs	3	Twice
Marathon	Mon & Thurs	3	Twice